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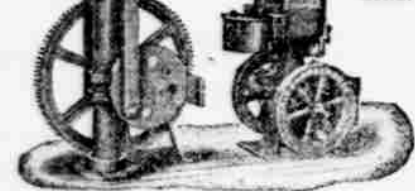
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## HOW HE SOLD THE MINE

By LEWIS AUBURY.



bunk down, only I'd kinder like ter be on the first floor, case o' fire, yer know."

Having been assured, he remarked to the clerk that he thought he would stroll around a bit.

He had scarcely reached the crossing before he was accosted by a man who had been seated in the hotel lobby and who had been an interested listener to his conversation with the clerk.

"Excuse me," he said, "but I have just learned of your arrival in the city, and knowing of your interest in mining affairs, through hearsay, I have taken the liberty of speaking to you regarding your 'propositions.'"

The bait was ample for our desert friend, and he forthwith began to declaim on the merits of his prospects.

"Well, yer see, my friend, me an' the boys hev some claims out by Canyon Springs, an' as our powder an' grub is a-gittin' putty low, an' as all o' them thought as I was the best-posed one in the bunch, an' they all knew I was too smart to be taken in by any of them sure-things fellers, why, they jest concluded to get together what capitol there was in the camp and give it ter me, an' I was tole to vamoose up here and git some more to help out durin' the winter, or mebbe sell a claim or two. So here I be, an' if I kin find the capitolist, well, say, he's my huckleberry."

"What's say? What hev we got. Ha! Ha! Excuse me for laffin', stranger; I feel so tickled. Yer see, I never thought as how it would be so easy, and here I am, gone and got some one interested in the very first rat in the box. Well, there's the Goldenader, which is a true fisher vein that I hev traced for 14 mile, an' is 72 feet an' four inches wide, that will essay \$32 ter the ton, and the fines' formashun yer ever set yer eyes on; an' there's the Golden Dream, an' its sutherly extension, the Pipe Dream, which is a corker, and the riches' preposishun of the lot, down on her ten-foot, an' she pans big from wall to wall."

"Oh, yes, we hev plenty o' wood—slathers of it—an' water, too. Yer be looking fer mines and what'll I take? Oh, 'bout \$400,000 fer the bunch, but if yer on'y want one or two, I'll come down."

"Oh, money's no object, and the bigger the better? Well, I jest know these claims are jest what yer want, an' I know Mr. Roschilld an' them English sinders yer hev behind yer back'll be tickled clean to death when they know how lucky ye've bin in gittin' such a valuable property. Yes, I give yer a bond on it right erway, an' say, yer jest telygraf them fellers and hev them send the money over to-morrow!"

After he had signed a number of mysterious documents that had been presented to him by his new-found friend, and had partaken of numerous and divers lemonades (?) he managed to find his way back to the hotel, and as he edged up to the counter, he exclaimed to the clerk:

"Put her thar, pard. I tole yer I was a crackerjack. Jest sole a mine fer a millyun dollars. Nothin' slow 'bout me, eh? Met business fren' o' Roschilld. Goin' ter buy all my claims nex' week. Borrer money? No, sur. I let him hev ten dollars to send a cabul over tellin' them fellers what a fine mine I hev. He's all right. He's a-goin' ter pay me back when the bank opens to-morrow. Shay, ole man, I guess I'll be makin' tracks fer the cage and git up to my bunk. Say, jest tell the ingineer what level I'm ter git off at, will yer, an' say, sen' a canteen up in case my coppers git hot."

And with a parting wave of the hand to the clerk, he managed to reach the elevator and was whisked to the "levels" above.

The embryo millionaire is still in town. I met him the other day. He has moved from the hotel and has found cheaper quarters. He thinks the air is bad in big hotels, and prefers to unroll his blankets on the river bottom, which he says is more comfortable. The "studcut" has not so far materialized, but notwithstanding his eye is not so bright nor his step so elastic, he still has faith in the visions of wealth that are to be his, which are conjured in his mind by sundry promoters.

### Poor Management.

"I made a humiliating mistake at the shore this summer."  
"What was that?"  
"I permitted a married man to rescue me from drowning."

## FRUITS OF MAKE-BELIEVE

By O. L. CARSON.

Little Mrs. Gray fluttered into her guest's room with a pasteboard box in her hand.

"Helen," she said, "I want you to do something for me. See this perfectly beautiful silk muffer I have bought for Allan's birthday present? Well, his birthday is three weeks off, but I want him to wear the muffer tonight. Please pretend that you have bought it for one of your friends and offer it to Allan to wear. His old muffer is quite shabby and he's going to an important business men's dinner. It's necessary, I think, that he should look prosperous, and he can't look prosperous while wearing a worn-out old muffer, can he?"

"No, Laura, I suppose not," agreed Helen. "But, really, wouldn't I be sailing under false colors if I—"

"Never mind that, dear. It's only a joke, you know. I do want Allan to have the use of the muffer and I don't wish to spoil the birthday surprise by giving it to him now. He's out in the hall this minute getting ready to start out. Let's go and insist upon his wearing it."

In a moment Helen found herself offering the muffer to her host with a careless generosity that quite surprised herself.

"But I hate to take the new off a present you have bought for some friend, Helen," protested Allan, who would really have preferred his old silk scarf.

"I'm very glad to have you try it out for me," laughed Helen.

"Oh, Allan, it's so becoming to you," said his wife. "That soft gray just suits your complexion. Don't you think he looks nice in it, Helen?"

"Yes, indeed, Laura," agreed Helen, smilingly.

"Allan, do be careful not to lose it. Helen, you have no idea how perfectly reckless Allan is with his belongings. When you have a husband you'll see how much care a man is. Now, Allan, perhaps I'd better fasten this muffer to your overcoat collar with a little safety pin. I'm sure I don't want Helen to be worried about it."

"I shan't have the least anxiety," declared Helen, who marveled at her friend's gratuitous play acting.

"Well, do be careful, anyway. I should so hate to have you lose it, Allan, the way you lose umbrellas."

"Perhaps I had better not borrow it. I am usually be trusted, Laura, not to scatter my wearing apparel about the city, but if you—"

"Nonsense. It is a great deal better looking than your old one. Please keep it on. Helen will be hurt now if you don't wear it. Won't you, Helen?"

"Yes, indeed, I shall," asserted Helen, dutifully.

So Allan, trying to look pleased and gracious, thanked her again and went to the dinner, wishing with secret irritation that his wife would not be quite so anxious about his appearance.

The next morning while Helen was packing her trunk to leave Laura came into the room with the muffer.

"Now, wasn't it just like Allan to go to business without even thinking of returning this to you?" she asked. "I took it out of his overcoat pocket before he was up, and he never missed it. You see, men are really awfully careless. Do you wonder that I cautioned him not to lose it?"

"No," murmured Helen, absently. She was a little tired of the muffer.

"And wasn't it just splendid that he never suspected it was really his own muffer that he was wearing? You know, when he was thanking you so effusively last night I could hardly keep my face straight."

"Nor I mine," sighed Helen.

Two days after Helen reached her own home she received a gray silk muffer from Allan. It was a much handsomer and more expensive one than that which he had supposedly borrowed from her.

"My dear Helen," said the note which accompanied it, "Laura was right, after all. I should have cast away my pride and allowed her to pin that muffer of yours to my overcoat. I have to confess that her anxiety was not unfounded. I must, indeed, be the careless creature she thinks me, for I did lose my muffer. When I went to take it out of my overcoat pocket to return it to you I was astonished to find it gone. I hope that the one I am sending will be a satisfactory substitute for the beautiful muffer you so kindly trusted me with, and that, remembering I am a mere man, you will find it in your heart to forgive me."

"By the way, I shall be eternally grateful if you won't say anything to Laura about my losing your muffer. She is such a punctilious little woman that she would be quite upset over my fault, especially after all her warnings. So, with more apologies, I throw myself upon your mercy."

"Good gracious! What shall I do with the thing?" groaned Helen, as she looked at the muffer with deep aversion. "I feel like a double-dyed fraud. For if anyone ever obtained goods under false pretenses I certainly have done so in this case."

### Same Old Grouch.

An old lady who saw "The Merchant of Venice" many years ago recently witnessed a modern production of the same play. When asked how she liked it, she replied: "Well, Venice seemed to have been spruced up a bit since the first time I saw it, but that Shylock's just the same mean, ordinary thing he was forty years ago."—From the Boston Transcript.

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